





HYLOBATES LAR. L.



resort to the extreme summits of the loftiest trees, and to call to each other from distant parts of the jungle. After 9 or 10 A. M. they become silent and are engaged feeding on fruit, young leaves, buds, shoots and insects, for which they will occasionally come to the ground. When approached, if alone, they will sometimes sit close,



doubled up in a thick tuft of foliage, or behind the fork of a tree near the top, so screened as to be quite safe from the shot of the sportsman. The sketch in the margin may show how effectually a single gunner may be baffled in his attempts to secure a specimen. With a companion the

manœuvre of course is useless. But indeed when forced from its concealment and put to flight, the Gibbon is not easily shot. It swings from branch to branch with its long arms, shaking the boughs all around, flings itself from prodigious heights into denser foliage, and is quickly concealed from view by intervening trees.

If hit, there is no animal more tenacious of life, and its efforts when desperately wounded to cling to the branch, and drag itself into some fork or nook where to hitch itself and die, excite amusement and compassion.

The Gibbon (if we restrict that name to this species) is not nearly so light and active as its congener *H. hoolock*, (the "Tooboung" of the Arakanese,) which latter species is not liable to vary in colour, being always black, with the hands and feet concolorous, and the supercilia only white, instead of a circle of that colour all round the face. The Gibbon, moreover, walks less readily on its hind legs than the hoolock, having frequently to prop and urge itself along by its knuckles on the ground. In sitting it often rests on its elbows and will lie readily on its back. Anger it shows by a fixed steady look, with the mouth held open and the lips occasionally retracted to show the canines, with which it can bite severely, but it more usually strikes with its long hands, which are at such times held dangling, and shaken in a ridiculous manner, like a person who has suddenly burnt his fingers. It is, on the whole, a gentle peaceable animal, very timid and so wild as not to bear confinement if captured adult. The young seldom reach maturity when deprived of liberty. They are born generally in the early part of the cold weather, a single one at